Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LIBREV 00954 311336Z

43
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 TRSE-00 AID-20 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 XMB-07 FRB-02 CIEP-02 L-03

IGA-02 DRC-01 COME-00 EA-11 /114 W
---------- 124238
P R 311245Z OCT 73
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4985
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIBREVILLE 0954

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, ETRN, GB
SUBJECT: TRANSGABON RR

REF: LIBREVILLE 0940

1. HAD INTERESTING CONVERSATION WITH FRENCH BUSINESSMAN GABARY (DIRECTOR OF SETIMEG) WHO ARRIVED LIBREVILLE THIS MORNING FOR THREE-DAY VISIT.

2. ACCORDING TO FAVARY A EUROPEAN GROUP COMPOSED OF FRENCH, GERMAN (PHILIP HOLZMAN) AND OTHER COMPANIES PRESENTING PROPOSAL FOR SECOND LEG OF RAILROAD (BOOUE-FRANCEVILLE) AND GAVARY FELT DECISION ON THIS PORTION OF RR WOULD BE MADE IN NEXT TWO OR THREE WEEKS.

3. GAVARY AWARE OF JAPANESE AND U.S. INTEREST ALTHOUGH I VOLUNTEERED NOTHING REGARDING U.S. AND MORRISON-KNUDSEN NOT MENTIONED IN CONVERSATION. GAVARY SAID CHASE-MANHATTAN BANK INTERESTED IN FINANCING THIS PROJECT. (NOT CLEAR WHETHER CHASE FINANCING WOULD BE FOR EUROPEAN CONSTRUCTION GROUP ALTHOUGH THIS WAS IMPLICATION OF GAVARY STATEMENT.)
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LIBREV 00954 311336Z

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

4. IN REPLY TO MY QUERY GAVARY SAID THAT HIS COMPANY INTERESTED IN BOTH ARRANGING CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS FOR SECOND LEG AND PARTICIPATING IN PUTTING TOGETHER FINANCING OF PROJECT.

5. GAVARY IS VERY CLOSE FRIEND OF BOTH PRESIDENT BONGO AND FONMIN RAWIRI. HIS PARIENT COMPANY (SETIMEG) HAS TWO SUB-SIDIARIES IN GABON (SOGAPROM AND SOGAFINEX). AMONG THEM THEY HAVE BEEN VERY ACTIVE HERE IN PAST FEW YEARS AND HAVE AMBITIOUS PLANS FOR FURTHER ACTIVITIES. SO FAR THEY HAVE BEEN PROMOTERS FOR BUILDING OF PRESIDENT BONGO'S NEW RESIDENCE, FOR NEW HIGH-CLASS HOTELS TO BE ERECTED IN LIBREVILLE AND PORT GENTIL, AND FOR ARRANGING BUILDING (WITH U.S. FINANCING) OF OWENDO INSTALLATIONS FOR RAILROAD (DOLS 13 MILLION) ALONG WITH MANY OTHER PROJECTS. GAVARY CURRENTLY ARRANGING FOR FINANCING AND BUILDING OF DOLS 140 MILLION WOOD PULP FACTORY NEAR LIBREVILLE. GAVARY'S COMPANIES ARE ESSENTIALLY PROMOTERS WHO ARRANGE FINANCING AND PUT TOGETHER BUILDING PROJECTS. IMPRESSIVE NUMBER OF LARGE PROJECTS ALREADY REALIZED BY GAVARY AND HIS KNOWN CLOSE TIES WITH BONGO TESTIFY TO IMPORTANCE HIS CURRENT VISIT HERE.

6. FOR PARIS: REQUEST EMBASSY PASS ABOVE INFO TO JOSEPH MCKEE OF MORRISON-KNUDSEN.

7. FOR DEPT: REQUEST DEPARTMENT PASS ABOVE INFO TO MORRISON-KNUDSEN IN U.S. ALSO SUGGEST IT MIGHT BE WORTHWHILE CONTACTING CHASE TO FIND OUT THEIR REAL INTEREST IN THIS PROJECT. (FYI. MORRISON-KNUDSEN INDICATED TO US THEY WOULD BE DISCUSSING FINANCING WITH MORGAN GUARANTY WITH WHOM THEY HAVE HAD CLOSE TIES IN PAST, AS WELL AS WITH COMMERCE UNION BANK NASHVILLE SUGGESTED BY GABONESE.) MCKESSON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTRUCTION, HOUSING, INDUSTRY, RAILROADS, BANK LOANS, PULPS, FOREIGN INVESTMENTS, SUBSIDIARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LIBREV00954
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LIBREVILLE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973103/aaaaaboj.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: LIBREVILLE 0940
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <28-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRANSGABON RR
TAGS: BEXP, ETRN, BTRA, GB, SETIMEG, SOGAPROM, SOGAFINEX, (GABARY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005